

Application Ser. No.:10/512,010

Title: A DEVICE FOR CLEANING THE TEATS OF AN ANIMAL AND A MILKING STALL INCLUDING THE DEVICE

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A milking stall including a number of milking stations, each being adapted to receive an animal to be milked, said milking stall comprising:
a milking machine having a number of teatcups to be attached to the teats of the animal to be milked; and
a device separate from and fluidically remote from said milking machine for cleaning the teats of an animal, including at least one first conduit member and at least one teat-cleaning member, which is connectable via the first conduit member to a central arrangement for supplying cleaning liquid and discharging waste liquid, wherein:
the teat-cleaning member includes at least two teat-cleaning cups to be applied to a respective teat of the animal, a conduit assembly and two second conduit members extending between a respective one of the teat-cleaning cups and the conduit assembly, and wherein each teat-cleaning cup is connected to the central arrangement via the respective second conduit members and the first conduit member[[s]] for supplying of cleaning liquid and providing for discharging of waste liquid,
wherein each conduit member includes a supply conduit for the supply of the cleaning liquid to teat-cleaning cup, and a discharge conduit for the discharge of waste liquid from teat-cleaning cup, and
wherein the supply conduit of each second conduit member is connected to the supply conduit of the first conduit member, and that the discharge conduit of each second conduit member is connected to the discharge conduit of the first conduit member.

2. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein the central arrangement is arranged to discharge the waste liquid by applying a pressure significantly lower than the atmospheric pressure to the teat-cleaning cups via the conduit members.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 2, wherein the central arrangement is arranged to perform the supplying of cleaning liquid and the discharging of waste liquid simultaneously.
5. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein the conduit assembly includes a connection member, which connects each second conduit member to the first conduit member.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein the conduit assembly includes a connection member arranged to hold the conduit members together.
8. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 5, wherein the teat-cleaning member includes a casing enclosing the connection member and having a first opening for the passage of the first conduit member and at least two second openings for the passage of a respective one of the second conduit members.
9. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein each second conduit member is relatively rigid permitting the second conduit member and the associated teat-cleaning cup to extend in an upward direction.
10. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein the teat-cleaning member includes a grip member permitting holding of the teat-cleaning member.
11. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 8, wherein the teat-cleaning member includes a grip member permitting holding of the teat-cleaning member and wherein the grip member is provided on the casing.

12. (Currently amended) A milking stall including a number of milking stations, each being adapted to receive an animal to be milked, said milking stall comprising:
a milking machine having a number of teatcups to be attached to the teats of the animal to be milked; and
a device separate from and fluidically remote from said milking machine for cleaning the teats of an animal, including at least one first conduit member and at least one teat-cleaning member, which is connectable via the first conduit member to a central arrangement for supplying cleaning liquid and discharging waste liquid, wherein:
the teat-cleaning member includes at least two teat-cleaning cups to be applied to a respective teat of the animal, a conduit assembly and two second conduit members extending between a respective one of the teat-cleaning cups and the conduit assembly, and wherein each teat-cleaning cup is connected to the central arrangement via the respective second conduit members and the first conduit member[[s]] for supplying of cleaning liquid and providing for discharging of waste liquid [according to claim1],
wherein the device includes a carrying arrangement for carrying the teat-cleaning member, wherein the carrying arrangement includes at least one holding member for holding the first conduit member along the wire-like member and the carriage, and wherein the device includes a balancing member enabling the teat-cleaning member to be raised and lowered by the application of a force smaller than the gravity force of the teat-cleaning member proper.
13. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 12, wherein the carrying arrangement is adapted to permit the teat-cleaning member to be movable.

14. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 13, wherein the teat-cleaning member is movable between at least an inactive position beside the animal to be cleaned and an active position beneath the teats of the animal.
15. (Currently amended) A milking stall ~~device~~ according to claim 12, wherein the carrying arrangement is adapted to permit the teat-cleaning member to be attached to the animal and to follow the animal during a movement of the animal.
16. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 14, wherein the carrying arrangement includes a support arm which carries the teat-cleaning member and is movable in such way that positions of the teat-cleaning member are reachable.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim ~~[[17]]~~ 12, wherein the carrying arrangement includes at least one holding member for holding the first conduit member along the wire-like member and the carriage.
19. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim ~~[[18]]~~ 12, wherein said holding member forms an open passage through which the first conduit member is movable.
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim ~~[[20]]~~ 12, wherein the balancing member is provided on the carriage.
22. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim ~~[[20]]~~ 12, wherein the balancing member is arranged to collect the wire-like member.
23. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein each teat-cleaning cup includes a lower end, an upper end and an inner space, the upper end defining an opening for the introduction of the teat to be cleaned into the inner space.
24. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 23, wherein each teat-cleaning cup includes a flexible lip extending around the opening and inwardly towards a center of

the opening in order to abut tightly the teat introduced into the inner space of the teat-cleaning cup.

25. (Previously presented) A milking stall according to claim 24, wherein the lip slopes downwards towards the center of the opening.
26. (Currently amended) A milking member according to claim 1, wherein the teat-cleaning device includes a retracting member arranged for retracting the teat-cleaning member from the teats of the animal after the cleaning operation is finished.
27. (Cancelled).
28. (Cancelled)
29. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim 1, wherein the milking stall includes a number of milking boxes, and wherein the milking boxes are arranged such that the milking stall is configured as one of a herringbone milking parlour, a tandem milking parlour, a parallel milking parlour and a rotary milking parlour.
30. (Currently amended) A milking stall according to claim 29, wherein the milking stall includes an apparatus for automatic attachment of the teatcups to the teats of the animal.

31. (Currently amended) A device for cleaning the teats of an animal, said device including at least one first conduit member and at least one teat-cleaning member, which is connectable via the first conduit member to a central arrangement for supplying cleaning liquid and discharging waste liquid, wherein the teat-cleaning member includes at least two teat-cleaning cups to be applied to a respective teat of the animal, a conduit assembly and two second conduit members extending between a respective one of the teat-cleaning cups and the conduit assembly, and wherein each teat-cleaning cup is connected to the central arrangement via the respective second conduit member and the first conduit member[[s]] for supplying of cleaning liquid and providing for discharging of waste liquid; wherein each conduit member includes a supply conduit for the supply of the cleaning liquid to teat-cleaning cup, and a discharge conduit for the discharge of waste liquid from teat-cleaning cup; and wherein the supply conduit of each second conduit member is connected to the supply conduit of the first conduit member, and that the discharge conduit of each second conduit member is connected to the discharge conduit of the first conduit member.

32. (Currently amended) A device for cleaning the teats of an animal, said device including at least one first conduit member and at least one teat-cleaning member, which is connectable via the first conduit member to a central arrangement for supplying cleaning liquid and discharging waste liquid,

wherein the teat-cleaning member includes at least two teat-cleaning cups to be applied to a respective teat of the animal, a conduit assembly and two second conduit members extending between a respective one of the teat-cleaning cups and the conduit assembly, and wherein each teat-cleaning cup is connected to the central arrangement via the respective second conduit member and the first conduit member[[s]] for supplying of cleaning liquid and providing for discharging of waste liquid;

wherein the device includes a carrying arrangement for carrying the teat-cleaning member; and

wherein the carrying arrangement includes at least one rail and a carriage movable along the rail, wherein the teat-cleaning member is suspended from the carriage via a wire-like member.

33. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 32, wherein the carrying arrangement includes at least one holding member for holding the first conduit member along the wire-like member and the carriage.

34. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein said holding member forms an open passage through which the first conduit member is movable.

35. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 32, wherein the device includes a balancing member enabling the teat-cleaning member to be raised and lowered by the application of a force smaller than the gravity force of the teat-cleaning member proper.

36. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 35, wherein the balancing member is provided on the carriage.

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37. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 35, wherein the balancing member is arranged to collect the wire-like member.